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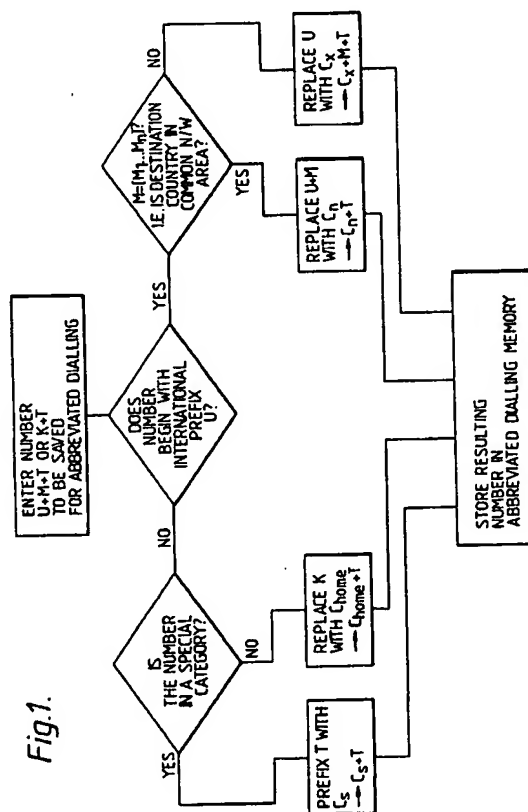
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(54) Telephone with abbreviated dialling.

(57) A telephone which facilitates abbreviated international dialling in a multinational mobile phone network. The telephone is adapted to distinguish an international prefix U, a country code M, a trunk prefix K, and a subscriber number T of a telephone number entered for storing in the telephone. The entered number is assigned a country indicator C, and the number is stored in the abbreviated dialling memory in the modified form C+T for countries within the network area, and in the form C+M+T for countries outside the network area. When a telephone number is retrieved from the abbreviated dialling memory appropriate numbers obtained from a look-up table are prefixed to the subscriber number T determined by C, as follows :

(i) K in the case of a domestic call, (ii) U+M in the case of an international call to a country within the common network area. In the case of countries outside the common network area the country indicator C is replaced by the international prefix U whereby the number retrieved is modified to U+M+T. A country-specific identifier C₁...C_n is assigned to a telephone number for destinations within the common network area, and a single common identifier C_x is assigned to a telephone number for all destination countries outside the common network area.



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The present invention relates to a telephone having an abbreviated dialling facility and intended for use in a multinational mobile telephone network.

An advantage of the Nordic Mobile Telephone network over national mobile phone networks is the possibility to use the same telephone in any Nordic country. Almost all available mobile phones have an abbreviated dialling memory in order to facilitate the dialling of frequently used numbers. In national networks the abbreviated dialling was easy to implement; the desired number is stored into memory and it is read from memory into the display using an abbreviated dialling sequence. This is relatively straightforward, since the telephone can be used only in that country and in that network, for which the telephone was purchased.

The conventional method to use abbreviated dialling, where the number stored in the memory is read from the memory as such, will restrict the usage of abbreviated dialling in multinational networks. For example the Finnish number 90 123456 is entered into memory in this form, and it is returned in the same form, when it is read out from the memory. If the subscriber is travelling in Sweden and from there wants to place a call to the same number in Finland, he cannot use the same abbreviated dialling facility, because he now has to dial the number 009 358 0 123456. Therefore, for the same telephone number the user would have to program a different number for calls from each country located within the area of the network. This usage requires a large memory, and further the user has to remember into which abbreviated dialling memory location he has stored the numbers to reach the same subscriber from different countries. The problems associated with abbreviated dialling will have an even greater impact in networks covering larger numbers of countries, for example the Pan-European GSM network, to which more than 15 countries belong.

EP-B-0,075,120 discloses an automatic dialler for a conventional (land-line) telephone system, comprising a fixed portion connected to a telephone apparatus or to a telephone network. The fixed portion contains information identifying the local telephone network to which it is connected. The automatic dialler also comprises a removable portion containing a memory for storing frequently called telephone numbers and for storing identity information corresponding to a home telephone network. The removable portion is portable and may be used with any fixed portion located in any country of the world. When the removable portion is inserted into the fixed portion the identity information of the two portions is compared. If they are the same, the removable portion is being used with a fixed portion connected to the home network, the telephone numbers stored in the removable portion are used without modification; but if they are different, i.e. the fixed portion is connected to a

local or national network other than the home network, the local and/or international codes of the numbers stored in the removable portion are modified appropriately. It is noted that the telephone numbers are stored in full in the memory of the removable portion exactly as entered, and so in the case of an international number this includes the international access code, the country code, the area code, and the subscriber number. Moreover, EP-B-0,075,120 evidently is concerned with a conventional land-line telephone system and does not address the special problems of a common mobile telephone network extending over a group of countries, in which the same mobile telephone can be used without modification in any of the countries in the common network area.

According to the present invention there is provided a telephone for use in a common mobile telephone network extending over a group of countries, comprising an abbreviated dialling memory, means for entering and retrieving telephone numbers into and from said abbreviated dialling memory, the telephone being adapted to distinguish an international prefix U, a country code M, a trunk prefix K, and a subscriber number T of an entered telephone number, means for assigning an Identifier C indicative of the destination country of the entered number, the entered number being stored in the abbreviated dialling memory in the modified form C+T for countries within the common network area, means for correlating the respective values of C, U, M, and K for each country of said group, wherein in response to the retrieval of a subscriber number T from the abbreviated dialling memory appropriate numbers derived from the correlating means are prefixed to the subscriber number T dependant on the associated country indicator C relative to the country in which the telephone is registered at the time of use.

A telephone in accordance with the invention thus facilitates abbreviated international dialling from any of the countries in the common network area, i.e. any country in which the telephone is capable of operating. More specifically, the telephone numbers stored in the abbreviated dialling memory are modified automatically when they are retrieved from memory depending on which country the telephone is present in at that time.

Moreover, since the telephone is intended for use in a limited number of countries, i.e. the countries of the common network area, only a limited amount of correlation information is needed by the telephone.

Thus, preferably a country-specific Identifier C_1, \dots, C_n is assigned to the telephone number for destinations within the common network area, where n is the number of countries in the common network area. A common unique Identifier C_x is assigned to the telephone number for all destination countries outside the common network area. Hence it is not necessary for the telephone to store country codes or

other information for countries outside the common network area. This national telephone number is stored in the form C + M + T for countries outside the common network area, and the country indicator C is replaced by the international prefix U when a number in the format C + M + T is retrieved from the abbreviated dialling memory.

Suitably, a further common unique identifier C_x may be assigned to the telephone number for all telephone numbers in a predetermined category, for example, telephone numbers relating to emergency services. To this end an entered telephone number is stored in the form C + T for the said category of numbers, and the country indicator C is simply omitted (rather than substituted) when a number in the format C + T is retrieved from the abbreviated dialling memory.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a flow chart showing how an entered telephone number is stored in an abbreviated dialling memory of a telephone in accordance with the invention,

Figure 2 is a flow chart showing how a telephone number is modified when it is retrieved from the abbreviated dialling memory, and

Figure 3 is a table illustrating the correlation of the parameters C, U, M, and T stored in the telephone.

Referring to Figure 1, the user enters a telephone number to be stored in the abbreviated dialling memory using the keys on the telephone in conventional manner. As is usual, the number is entered in the form U + M + T for a call whose destination is abroad, and K + T for a national call, where the parameter U is the international prefix (990 from Finland), the parameter M is the country code of the destination country (Finland 358), the parameter K the number before the trunk code, or the trunk prefix which directs a call to the trunk level (9 in Finland), and the parameter T is the subscriber number including the trunk code (for a number 123456 in Helsinki T will have the value 0123456). On the basis of the entered numbers the telephone identifies the number either as a national or as an international call, and stores the number in the form C + T, when the number is identified as being placed nationally or to another country, which is in the common network area, e.g. the Nordic countries in the NMT network, and in the case of GSM those European countries joining the GSM network; and in the form C + M + T, when the number is identified as being placed to a country outside the common network area, as discussed in more detail below. The parameter C is an identifier which indicates the country to which a call is made within the area of the network, or whether it is placed to a country outside the network, or whether the number is a special number,

e.g. an alarm number. On the basis of the identifier C the telephone will know into which country a call is directed, and when a call is made using abbreviated dialling, it is able to automatically select the correct numbers as the value of C, depending on the country into whose network the telephone is registered at the time of the call. In other words, the international prefixes U, the country codes M and the trunk prefixes K for countries within the common network area are already programmed into the telephone and stored in a look-up table with the corresponding country indicator C, as explained in more detail below. The telephone is able to distinguish the destination country from the subscriber number T, and on this basis it adds to the number the relevant identifier C indicating into which country the call is directed, if it is placed to a country within the network area, or indicating that the number is a special number, such as an alarm number.

Referring to Figure 3, which illustrates how the various parameters C, U, M, and K may be stored and correlated in a look-up table in the telephone, a country-specific identifier C_1, \dots, C_n is assigned to an entered telephone number for destinations within the common network area, as determined by the country code U. On the other hand, a common unique identifier C_x is assigned to the entered telephone number for all destination countries outside the common network area, i.e. if the country code U is not found in the look-up table. Hence it is not necessary for the telephone to store country codes or other information for countries outside the common network area. For emergency numbers, or other special categories of number, a further common unique identifier C_x is assigned to the telephone number entered and the number is stored in the form C + T.

The country indicator C could be, for example, an easily recognised two (or more) letter abbreviation stored in ASCII format, representing the country name, e.g. FI for Finland, or DE for Germany (Deutschland). A two-letter code such as EX may be used to indicate a country outside the common network area. The two letter code may actually be displayed on the telephone display as a prefix to the subscriber number T whenever a number is retrieved from the abbreviated dialling memory. On the other hand, the full telephone number may be displayed, so that the user knows exactly what numbers are being dialled automatically. Alternatively, the country indicator may be a numeric code, e.g. 1=Finland, 2=Germany, etc; or any other suitable encoding scheme may be used.

Referring now to Figure 2, when a telephone number is recalled from the abbreviated dialling memory via the interface of the keys on the telephone keypad, the telephone correspondingly first checks in which country it is registered at that time. If the identifier C of the telephone number retrieved from the ab-

breviated dialling memory corresponds with the country in which the telephone is currently registered, then the trunk prefix K for the country in question, which is obtained from the look-up table, is placed before the subscriber number T in place of the country indicator C. The number is thus modified to K + T. On the other hand, if the identifier C does not correspond to the country in which the telephone is currently present (registered), the number may be displayed in the form C + T, and if the destination country is within the common network area, i.e. $C = \{C_1, \dots, C_n\}$, then the appropriate international prefix U and the country code M, the values of which are obtained from the look-up table on the basis of the respective country indicator C, are substituted for C so that the number is modified to U + M + T. If the country is outside the common network area, and the number does not belong to a special category, e.g. for emergency services, the number is displayed in the form C + M + T, where the country code M is obtained from the look-up table and C is automatically replaced by the international prefix U according to the country within the network area from which the call is made. If the number does belong to a predetermined special category of numbers, i.e. $C = C_s$, then C is simply omitted (rather than substituted) when a number in the format $C_s + T$ is retrieved, and the number is returned in the form T.

Some examples of storing and retrieving telephone numbers in accordance with the present invention will now be given.

As a first example, when the number 90 123456 is entered in Finland the telephone detects that the number is a national number with the trunk code 0, and thus the value $C_{FI}0123456$ is stored into memory, where the value C_{FI} is the country indicator for Finland. When the number later is recalled with abbreviated dialling from the same memory location, the telephone will first check the identifier C and notice that the telephone number is a Finnish one. Then, if the telephone is registered on the Finnish network at that time, the number is modified to 90123456, since $K_{FI}=9$; or, if the telephone is registered on the Swedish network, for example, then the telephone is able to select from the look-up table the international prefix $U_{SE}=009$ for Sweden and the country code $M_{FI}=358$ for Finland, whereby the number is modified to 009 358 0 123456. Alternatively, in Norway the number would be modified to 095 358 0 123456, since $U_{NO}=095$ and $M_{FI}=358$.

As a second example, when the number 990 46 8 123456 is entered, the telephone will similarly detect from the look-up table that the call is placed abroad from Finland, and to a country within the common network area, i.e. Sweden (e.g. in the NMT network). Then the number $C_{SE}8123456$ is stored into the concerned memory location, where C_{SE} is the identifier for Sweden. In accordance with the inven-

tion, the number is modified to 990 46 8 123456 when calling from Finland, and 08 123456 when calling from Sweden.

As a third example it is assumed that the number 990 49 234 123456 is entered into a memory location. The telephone will detect the international prefix 990 and conclude that it is an international number, but since the country code 49 is not stored in the look-up table, this tells the telephone that the number in question is not directed to a country belonging to the common network area (e.g. the NMT network). In this case e.g. the number $C_x49234123456$ is stored into memory, where C_x relates to a number outside the common network area, and when this memory location is read for example in Sweden, the number is modified to 009 49 234 123456, since $U_{SE}=009$.

The telephone is further able to distinguish special numbers. Let the number 000 be entered in Finland. Since the number is not an international number and since it does not begin with 9, the code C_s000 is written in the memory, where C_s refers to a special category of number. If this number is called from memory in any country within the network area, the number 000 is used without any prefix.

It will be evident in view of the foregoing description that a telephone in accordance with the invention facilitates abbreviated international dialling in a multinational mobile phone network. Once the number is stored in the abbreviated dialling memory it can be recalled and used in the same way when the telephone is present in any country within the common network area. This enhances user friendliness in multinational mobile phone networks, as in NMT and GSM. It also economizes on the telephone's abbreviated dialling memory, since it is not necessary to store the international prefix U nor the country code M in this memory for countries within the network area, because these codes are already stored in a memory (the look-up table) common to all abbreviated dialling calls, and from which memory the codes are automatically read according to the identifier C stored in the abbreviated dialling memory. When a call is destined for a country outside the common network area it is not necessary to enter the international prefix U into the memory, but only the country code M and the subscriber number T. Moreover, it is not necessary for the telephone to store in the look-up table country codes or other information for countries outside the common network area, which further economizes on memory requirements.

Claims

1. A telephone for use in a common mobile telephone network extending over a group of countries, comprising
an abbreviated dialling memory,

means for entering and retrieving telephone numbers into and from said abbreviated dialling memory,

the telephone being adapted to distinguish an international prefix U, a country code M, a trunk prefix K, and a subscriber number T of an entered telephone number,

means for assigning an identifier C indicative of the destination country of the entered number, the entered number being stored in the abbreviated dialling memory in the modified form C + T for countries within the common network area,

means for correlating the respective values of C, U, M, and K for each country of said group,

wherein in response to the retrieval of a subscriber number T from the abbreviated dialling memory appropriate numbers derived from the correlating means are prefixed to the subscriber number T dependant on the associated country indicator C relative to the country in which the telephone is registered at the time of use.

2. A telephone as claimed in claim 1, wherein the appropriate numbers prefixed to the subscriber number T are (i) K in the case of a domestic call, or (ii) U + M in the case of an international call to a country within the common network area.
3. A telephone as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the entered number is stored in the form C + M + T for countries outside said common network area.
4. A telephone as claimed in claim 3, wherein the country indicator C is replaced by the international prefix U when a number in the format C + M + T is retrieved from the abbreviated dialling memory.
5. A telephone as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the telephone number is stored in the form C + T for a predetermined category of telephone numbers.
6. A telephone as claimed in claim 5, wherein no prefix is added to the subscriber number T and the country indicator C is omitted when a number in the format C + T is retrieved from the abbreviated dialling memory.
7. A telephone as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the predetermined category of telephone numbers relates to emergency services.
8. A telephone as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein a country-specific identifier C_1, \dots, C_n is assigned to the telephone number for destinations within the common network area.
9. A telephone as claimed in claim 8, wherein a common unique identifier C_x is assigned to the telephone number for all destination countries outside the common network area.
10. A telephone as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9, wherein a further common unique identifier C_y is assigned to the telephone number for all telephone numbers in a predetermined category.

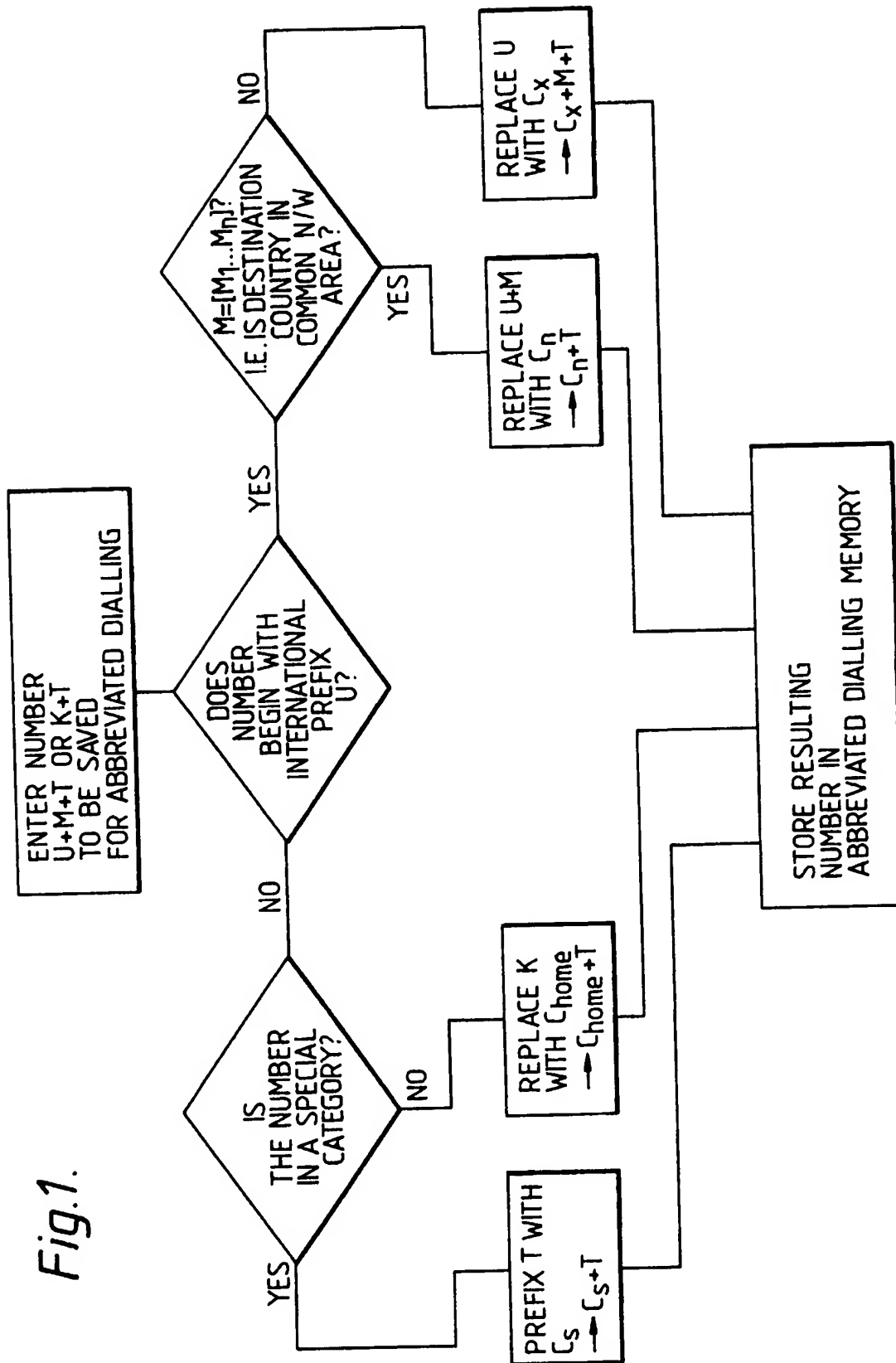


Fig. 2.

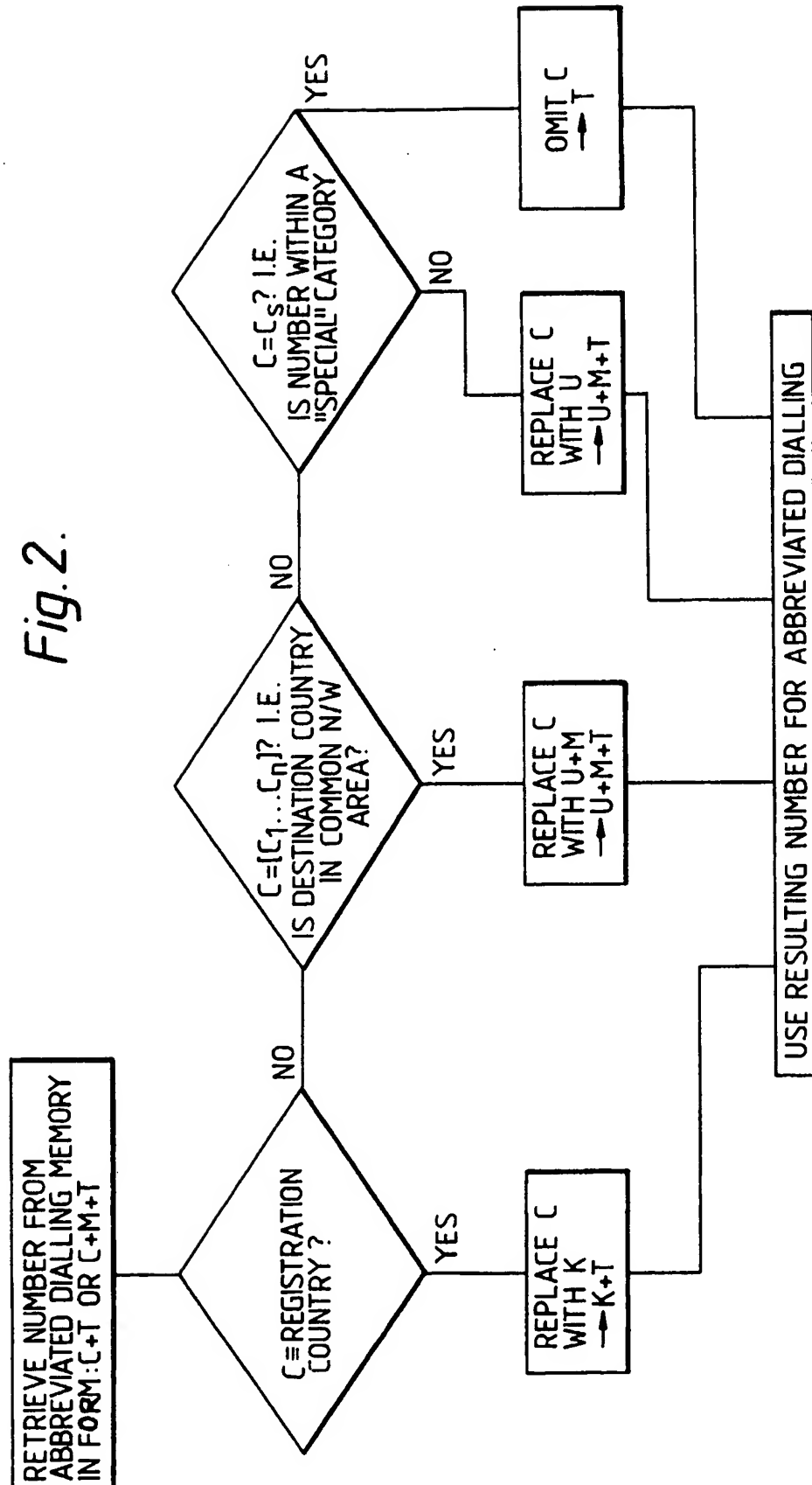


Fig. 3.

COUNTRY INDICATOR	INTERNATIONAL PREFIX	COUNTRY CODE	TRUNK PREFIX
C_1	U_1	M_1	K_1
C_2	U_2	M_2	K_2
C_3	U_3	M_3	K_3
C_{FI}	$U_{FI}=990$	$M_{FI}=358$	$K_{FI}=9$
C_{SE}	$U_{SE}=009$	$M_{SE}=46$	$K_{SE}=0$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
C_n	U_n	M_n	K_n
C_x	-	-	-
C_s	-	-	-

COUNTRIES IN COMMON NETWORK AREA

COUNTRIES OUTSIDE COMMON NETWORK AREA

SPECIAL CATEGORY NUMBERS